



News Release

Communications New Brunswick

New Brunswick Human Rights Commission

Human Rights Commission releases annual report (08/01/24)

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FREDERICTON (CNB) - The annual report of the New Brunswick Human Rights Commission has been released.

"The 2006-07 year was a busy and successful year for the Human Rights Commission," said Gordon Porter, chair of the commission. "We worked hard through educational activities to prevent discrimination, to expedite the investigation of discrimination complaints, and to improve our mediation service."

"In June 2006 we hosted the annual conference of the Canadian Association of Statutory Human Rights Agencies in partnership with the Atlantic Human Rights Centre. More than 200 people from across Canada participated in the conference. One of the highlights was a tribute to the late John Peters Humphrey of Hampton, who wrote the first draft of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights."

During the tribute, the commission presented the 2006 New Brunswick Human Rights Award to the Hampton John Peters Humphrey Foundation for its outstanding work to promote the legacy of John Peters Humphrey.

Statistics in the annual report show that 174 cases were opened in 2006-07, representing in total 261 allegations of discrimination, and 198 cases were closed. Of the new cases, 78 per cent concerned employment. The two most frequent grounds of complaint were physical and mental disability, which accounted for 44 per cent of the new cases. A total of 98 cases were settled during the year.

During 2006-07 the commission was successful in getting leave to appeal the Scott v. Potash Corp. of Saskatchewan mandatory retirement case to the Supreme Court of Canada. The commission recommended the appointment of a human rights board of inquiry in nine cases, but four cases were later settled and one was withdrawn. Two decisions were issued by a human rights board of inquiry after a hearing.

The commission published a reference manual and two pamphlets on the right of employees to return to work after a workplace accident or various types of leave. The publications were developed in partnership with the Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Commission and the Employment Standards Branch of the Department of Post-secondary Education, Training and Labour.

Public information sessions were held in Moncton, Saint John and Fredericton on the two newest grounds of prohibited discrimination, social condition and political belief or activity. Three workshops

were given about the commission's development of a guideline on accommodating students with a disability. In total, 62 workshops or information sessions were delivered.

"We are pleased by our achievements this year," Porter said. "We are confident that human rights continue to play a key role in helping New Brunswick be a better place to live, learn and work, a place where everybody can participate to their fullest potential, and where immigrants will choose to make their homes."

08/01/24

EDITOR'S NOTE: Printed copies of the 2006-07 annual report may be obtained by calling 1-888-471-2233. Electronic copies are available online. MEDIA CONTACT: Francis Young, New Brunswick Human Rights Commission, 1-888-471-2233.

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